

SAF/LLZ (Legislative Research Team)

KLECZKA, Gerald D. (Democrat)
Representative, 4th District, Wisconsin
Elected 3Apr84 to the 98th Congress
Reelected to succeeding Congresses



BACKGROUND

Born: Milwaukee, Wisconsin - 26 November 1943

Home: Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Marital status: Married (Bonnie)

Religion: Roman Catholic

Military: Wisconsin Air National Guard, 1963-9 (medic)

Education: Univ of Wisconsin-Milwaukee 1961-62, 1967, 1970 (no degree)

Profession: Accountant

Political: WI Assembly, 1969-74; WI Senate, 1975-84 (co-chmn of the Joint Finance Cmte). Won a special election to fill the seat of Rep Clement Zablocki (D) who died. Sworn in on 10Apr84. Reelected in 2000 with 61% of the vote and in 2002 with 86% to the redrawn 4th District.

Rep Kleczka is a liberal and party loyalist who occasionally votes with conservatives on matters such as abortion. He is considered pro-union and works to protect the interests of his blue collar constituents – health care, taxes, jobs, community development and consumer protection. (Politics in America, 2004) In the 103d Congress, sponsored legislation to open military golf courses to civilian use. During debate on the FY94 DoD authorization, supported an unsuccessful amdt to reduce funding for Ballistic Missile Defense. In the 105th Congress, introduced H.R. 3145, a bill to enact into law eligibility requirements for interment at Arlington National Cemetery. In the 106th Congress, questioned many of the unrequested military construction projects included in the milcon appropriations bill. One of five Wisconsin congressional members who wrote SecAF protesting contract award to an Oklahoma firm to provide services for Air Force Reserve's 440th Airlift Wing, General Mitchell IAP at Milwaukee. Expressed concern about imminent loss of 55 civilian jobs, questioned fairness of bidding process, and said the process awarding the contract severely limits local commander input. Asked Secretary Peters to impose a nationwide moratorium on outside, private-sector contracts. (Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 23Oct99) Criticized the inclusion of non-emergency items in an emergency wartime spending bill which had nothing to do with NATO operations or an emergency. Criticized the use of certain accounting gimmicks, such as delaying payments to defense contractors, delaying veterans medical care obligations, and delaying the paychecks of military personnel. In the 107th Congress, introduced a bill to require executive agencies to pay the premiums for health care coverage provided under the FEHBP for reservists in the Armed Forces ordered to active duty for more than 30 days. Successfully secured \$2 million in funding for renovations for the Milwaukee County War Memorial.

In the 108th Congress, while favoring limited tax cuts, said President Bush's tax cut was hurting the nation's economy, favored the wealthy and endangered the government surplus.

AF Bases: Gen Billy Mitchell Field (ANG) (AFRES)

Additional: Co-chairman, Air Force Caucus. Is a dog lover.

COMMITTEES

WAYS AND MEANS -- Subcs on: Health; Oversight